

**GREAT VESPERS**  
**Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Our Father Among the Saints, Basil the Great,**  
**Archbishop of Caesarea**

**Priest:** Glory be to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

Come, let us adore the King Our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

**PSALM 103**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

You are very great, O Lord my God;

Clothed in pomp and brilliance;  
Arrayed with light as with a cloak.

Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,  
Covering Your lofty halls with water,

You make the clouds Your conveyance;  
You surge on the wings of the wind.

You make spirits Your messengers,  
And flaming fires Your attendants.

You settle the earth on its firm foundation;  
It shall stand unmoved from age to age.

May the Lord's glory endure forever:  
May the Lord rejoice in His works.

He looks upon the earth and makes it quake;  
He touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:  
I will praise my God as long as I last.

Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him:  
And I will rejoice in the Lord.

May sinners vanish from the earth,  
And may the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord,  
O my soul!

The sun knows the time of its setting.  
You establish darkness, and it is night.

How great are Your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom You have wrought them all.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory be to You, O God! *(3 times)*

### **LITANY OF PEACE**

**Priest:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our most holy Pontiff **[N]** Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our most blessed Patriarch **[N]**, our most reverend Metropolitan **[N]** the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For this city, for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by your grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

*(stand)*

**KATHISMA**

Blessed is the one – Alleluia  
Who has not walked in the counsel of the wicked .....Alleluia

For the Lord knows the way of the just,  
But the way of the wicked shall be lost.....Alleluia

Serve the Lord with fear,  
Exalt in Him with trembling .....Alleluia

Blessed are those  
who trust in Him .....Alleluia

Arise, O Lord!  
Save me my God! .....Alleluia

Salvation is of the Lord!  
upon your people be your blessing.....Alleluia

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.(3X)

**O Lord I Have Cried to You (Psalm 140)**  
**(Tone 8)**

O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me.  
Hear me O my Lord!  
O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me.  
Give heed to the voice of my prayer  
When I call upon you.  
Hear me, O my Lord.

Let my prayer rise like incense before You;  
And the lifting of my hands like an evening sacrifice.  
Hear me, O my Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth  
And a portal around my lips.

Incline my heart away from evil dealings,  
From finding excuses for sinful deeds.

In company with those who work iniquity,  
Let me not partake of what they choose.

May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me;  
May the oil of the wicked never touch my head.

Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare.  
Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.

My words will be heard, for they were sweet.  
As a lump of clay broken on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn near the grave.

To You, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up.  
In You have I hoped; let not my soul be lost.

Keep me from the snare that was set for me,  
And from the stumbling-blocks of the wicked.

The wicked shall fall into their own nets,  
While I remain alone until I can escape.

**PSALM 141**

With my voice I cried to the Lord  
With all my voice I implored the Lord.

Before Him I pour out my supplications;  
Before Him I declare my distress.

When my breath was escaping me,  
Then you knew my paths;

On the road upon which I was walking  
They set up snares for me.

I looked to my right and observed.  
There was no one to take care of my life.

I cried out to You, O Lord, and said  
You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.

Listen to my supplication,  
For I am laid very low.

Deliver me from my oppressors,  
For they have overwhelmed me.

Lead my soul forth from prison  
That I may give thanks to your name.

The just shall gather around me  
When You have been good to me.

**PSALM 129**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
O Lord hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
To the voice of my prayer.

If You mark iniquities, O Lord, who can stand?  
But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.

**I have waited for You as You have commanded;  
My soul patiently relies on Your promise,  
for it has trusted in the Lord.**

***Tone 8***

In his love for the human race,  
the Saviour condescended and willed to be wrapped in swaddling clothes.  
Eight days old according to his mother  
and eternal according to his Father,  
He did not look down upon the circumcision of the flesh.  
Therefore, O believers, let us cry out to Him:  
You are our God; have mercy on us!

**From the morning watch until night  
Let Israel trust in the Lord.**

The all-good God was not ashamed to be circumcised in the flesh,  
but He offered himself as a symbol  
and an example of salvation to all.  
For the Maker of the Law submitted himself to its commands  
and to what the prophets beforehand told of Him.  
O our God who hold all things in your hands,  
and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
O Lord, glory to You!

**For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him there is plentiful redemption; and He shall  
redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

***Tone 4*** You have been called by the name of Basil, after the kingdom.  
In your kingly rank you led the people of Christ to wisdom and knowledge.  
Then the Lord of all and King of Kings  
adorned you with the crown of the kingdom, O Basil.  
He is the everlasting and co-eternal Son  
who was united to her that bore Him.  
Therefore, intercede with Him  
that He may enlighten and save our souls.

**Praise the Lord, all the Nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.**

Adorned with the vestments of a bishop, O Basil,  
you gladly proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom  
and poured out the teachings of the true faith for the Church.  
Now enlightened by them, we confess and glorify  
the one Godhead, indivisible in three Persons;  
namely the almighty Father, the only-begotten Word of God, and the Divine Spirit.  
Intercede with Him  
that He may enlighten and save our souls.

**Strong is the love of the Lord for us; eternally will His truth endure.**

You are now living among the ranks of the heavenly powers, O Basil,  
for you imitated their life with the purity of your way of living.  
When you were in the flesh,

you lived on earth as one without flesh.  
Therefore, intercede with Christ our God for us  
who delight in your God-inspired teachings,  
that He may protect us from dangers and the darkness of ignorance,  
and that He may enlighten our souls.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**

**Tone 8** O venerable Father, you became a lover of wisdom,  
preferring life with God to all possessions of the world.  
Your contemplation of death made you forsake the wealth of the earth,  
and by your perseverance in fastings,  
you overcame the sting of passions.  
By study of the divine law  
you preserved the freedom within your soul.  
By your generous practice of virtue  
you subjected the passions of the flesh to the spirit.  
You renounced the flesh, the world, and the princes of the earth;  
now you stand in the presence of Christ.  
Intercede with Him for great mercy upon our souls.

**Now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Tone 8** In his love for the human race,  
the Savior condescended and willed to be wrapped in swaddling clothes.  
Eight days old according to his mother  
and eternal according to his Father,  
He did not look down upon the circumcision of the flesh.  
Therefore, O believers, let us cry out to Him:  
You are our God; have mercy on us!

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright!

#### **HYMN OF LIGHT**

O Joyful Light!  
Light and Holy Glory of the Father immortal,  
The heavenly, holy the Blessed One: O Jesus Christ!  
Now that we have reached the setting of the sun;  
And see the evening light, we sing to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured  
melody to You, O Son of God, the Giver of Life.  
Behold the universe sings Your glory.

**Priest:** Let us be attentive. Peace be with all. Wisdom let us be attentive.

**Prokimen:**

The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty

**Verse:** Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

**Verse:** For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

**Verse:** Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

**Reading**

**A reading from the Book of Proverbs (10:31-11:12)**

The mouth of the just yields wisdom but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the just know how to please, but the mouth of the wicked, how to pervert. False scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a full weight is his delight. When pride comes, disgrace comes; but with the humble is wisdom. The honesty of the upright guides them; the faithless are ruined by their duplicity. Wealth is useless on the day of wrath, but virtue saves from death. The honest man's virtue makes his way straight, but by his wickedness the wicked man falls. The virtue of the upright saves them, but the faithless are caught in their own intrigue. When a wicked man dies his hope perishes, and what is expected from strength comes to nought. The just man escaped trouble, and the wicked man falls into it in his stead. With his mouth the impious man would ruin his neighbour, but through their knowledge the just make their escape. When the just prosper, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. Through the blessing of the righteous the city is exalted, but through the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown. He who reviles his neighbour has no sense, but the intelligent man keeps silent.

**THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

**Priest:** Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Lord Almighty, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

**Priest:** We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff **[N]**, Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch **[N]**, our most reverend Metropolitan **[N]**, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

**Priest:** We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

**Priest:** We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

**Priest:** For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy

Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

### **HYMN OF GLORIFICATION**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name for ever.  
Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us because we have set our hope in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Master, make me understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your laws.

O Lord, Your mercy endures forever; do not despise the work of Your hands.

It is proper to praise You, and hymns belong to You.

Glory belongs to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

### **LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

**Priest:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord

**Priest:** For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies,  
let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offences, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world,  
let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a

good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ Our God.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** For You, O God are good and the lover of us all and we give You glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Bow your heads to the Lord.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** (silently) O Lord our God, You lowered the heavens when You came down for the salvation of the human race. Now look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads before You, the Judge, both awesome and loving. They do not await human help, but look for Your mercy and are ready to receive Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and tonight, against all enemies, against the devil's assaults, against vain thoughts and evil dreams.

May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and exalted, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

## **APOSTICHA**

### ***Tone 1***

You were like a divine and noble bee of the Church of Christ, all-blessed Basil.  
When you armed yourself with the sting of divine love,  
you wounded the blasphemers of God-transgressing heresies,  
and you stored up the sweetness of true worship in the souls of believers.  
Now that you have attained the delights of the divine presence,  
remember us before the consubstantial Trinity.

**My lips will speak words of wisdom; my heart is full of insight.**

You have acquired the virtues of all the saints, O Father Basil:  
the meekness of Moses and the zeal of Elijah,  
the confession of faith by Peter,

and the eloquence in theology of John.  
Like Paul, you never cease to cry aloud:  
Who is weak and I am not weak?  
Who is offended and I burn not?  
Therefore, because you dwell with them,  
pray for the salvation of our souls.

**Tone 2**

**The mouth of the just utters wisdom, and his lips speak what is right.**

O Basil, the revealer of holiness,  
having studied the nature of creatures  
and contemplated the instability of all things,  
you found the only One who is unchangeable,  
the transcendent Creator of all the world.  
And having clung to Him, you cast off the desire of transient things.  
Therefore, intercede for us  
that we may also obtain the divine love.

**Tone 6**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

O all-blessed Basil, you received the grace of miracles from heaven  
and exposed the errors of the heathen by your doctrines.  
You are the glory and support of bishops,  
and an example of the teachings of all the Fathers.  
Therefore, having received favor with Christ,  
intercede with Him for the salvation of our souls.

**HYMN OF SIMEON**

Now You shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord,  
According to Your Word in peace;  
Because my eyes have seen Your salvation  
Which You have prepared before the face of all people,  
A light to the revelation of the Gentiles  
And the glory of Your people, Israel.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. *(3 times)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O  
Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Priest:** For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Tropar**

**Tone 1** Your voice resounds throughout the world  
which has accepted the lessons so well taught by you.  
You have given explanation of divine truths.  
You have clarified the nature of created things.  
You have made a rule of life.  
By your royal priesthood, O venerable Father Basil,  
intercede with Christ to save our souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

O Jesus, enthroned on high together with your eternal Father and Divine Spirit,  
You condescended to be born on earth of a maiden and virgin mother.  
And on the eighth day You were circumcised.  
Glory to your most noble decision;  
glory to your plan of salvation;  
glory to your condescension, O Lord;  
You alone love mankind.

**DISMISSAL**

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**People:** Give the blessing!

**Priest:** Blessed are You, O Christ our God, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen. O God, strengthen the true faith forever and ever.

**Priest:** O most holy Mother of God, save us!

**People:** More honorable than the Cherubim and by far more glorious than the Seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

**Priest:** Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

**People:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.  
Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3x) Give the blessing.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, Who, in accord with the Law, accepted circumcision on the eighth day for our salvation, risen from the dead, through the prayers of his most holy Mother, through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, and through the prayers St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us for He is gracious and loves all of us.

**People:** Amen